

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 010337Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6416

UNCLAS KABUL 1526

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, AF

SUBJ: HARBISON-WALKER INTEREST IN AFGHAN CHROMITE

REF: HARBISON-WALKER COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM OF FEBRUARY 26

1. MR. W.H. MCCracken, Manager, Raw Materials, Harbison-Walker Refractories International, Pittsburgh, PA. has had exchange of correspondence with Embassy seeking information on known chromite deposits in Afghanistan. Embassy provided existing information and RefTel indicated McCracken and team plan to visit Afghanistan late March to investigate deposits. Please inform McCracken of the following.

2. Government of Afghanistan (GOA) officials state that Afghanistan is currently contemplating establishment of a steel industry in Afghanistan and has suspended consideration of exploitation of chromite deposits until steel decision made, as chromite could be used in that industry. At this time, they are not prepared to discuss exploitation for export. However, they understand they may need foreign assistance in exploitation of deposits for either local use or export. With that understanding, they are prepared to meet with you in late March and will attempt to facilitate your visit to sites, possibly with Afghan Geological Survey officials.

3. Weather in late March should be excellent for such field visits. Official GOA holiday for New Year (March 21) is likely to be March 18, 19, 20, and 21, but numerous officials take
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ADDITIONAL DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER HWIDAUM WEEK BEGINNING

MARCH 27 SHOULD HAVE FULL COMPLEMENT, BUT ANY AFTER
MARCH 22 WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOURNZVISIT. M. HASHEM TOUFIQUI,
PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIES, MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES,
HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING AND ASSISTING YOU.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KABUL01526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0156
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603108/aaaadrdr.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARBISON-WALKER INTEREST IN AFGHAN CHROMITE
TAGS: BTRA, AF
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006